

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IV  
SUPERFUND PROGRAM EXPLANATION OF SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES  
FACT SHEET

SCRDI BLUFF ROAD SUPERFUND SITE  
COLUMBIA, RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Introduction

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide additional information on a change to activities for the SCRDI Bluff Road Superfund Site in Richland County, South Carolina. The remedial action selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is described in detail in the Record of Decision (ROD) signed on September 12, 1990. The ROD stated that a five-year review would not apply to this site. EPA has determined that the five-year review provisions of Section 121(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended, are applicable to this site. This change represents a significant difference from the original ROD, and is published in this manner as an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). This document is being issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the lead agency for remedial activities at the site, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the support agency for this response action.

This Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) is issued as part of public participation responsibilities under Section 117(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA). This notice includes information on why the five-year review is now required, and of what the five-year review consists. The administrative record file for this site contains the information upon which the remedy selection was based, including the ROD and Responsiveness Summary. This ESD will become a part of that record which is located at the following locations:

Information Repository

Richland County Public Library  
Landmark Square Branch  
Landmark Square Shopping Center  
6864 Garners Ferry Road  
Columbia, South Carolina 29209  
(803) 776-0855

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am - 9pm  
Friday & Saturday 9am - 6pm

EPA Region IV Office

U.S. EPA Records Center  
Ground Floor  
345 Courtland Street, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30365  
(404) 347-0506

Monday - Friday  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Site History

The first reported use of the site was as an acetylene gas manufacturing facility. Specific dates and other details regarding the facility operations are not available. However, two lagoons were constructed at the north end of the cleared area of the site to support acetylene manufacturing.



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In 1975, the site became a marshalling center for Columbia Organic Chemical Company, and was used to store, recycle, and dispose of chemical wastes. The site was closed in 1982 after a ground water investigation conducted by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and EPA revealed the presence of site contamination of soils and groundwater.

A surficial cleanup of the site was performed in 1982 and 1983. Several thousand drums containing various chemicals were removed from the site for disposal. Visibly contaminated soil and all above-ground structures were removed from the site. Clean fill and gravel were placed on the site to fill-in excavations and provide clean roads. The two lagoons and an above-ground tank containing approximately 100 gallons of sludge were left on-site. The above-ground tank was removed in 1989 as part of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the site.

Special notice letters were sent to approximately one hundred thirty-nine potentially responsible parties to give them the opportunity to conduct the RI/FS. An Administrative Order on Consent to perform the RI/FS was entered into by a group of forty-three of the PRPs on April 21, 1988. This PRP-lead RI/FS was completed in 1990, a remedy was selected by EPA and the Record of Decision was signed on September 12, 1990.

#### Description of the Remedy

A complete detailed description of the remedy is contained in the Record of Decision available at the information repository in the Landmark Square Branch of the Richland County Library.

The Bluff Road remedy addresses the source of contamination to ground water (contaminated soil) and the contaminated ground water present at the site.

The major components of the selected remedy include:

#### GROUNDWATER (PUMP AND TREAT)

- Extraction of contaminated groundwater
- On-site treatment of extracted groundwater via:
  - a. Pretreatment for metals removal
  - b. Air stripping
  - c. Liquid phase granular activated carbon system
  - d. Vapor phase activated carbon system (emission control)
- Discharge of treated groundwater via reinjection
- Groundwater remediation will be performed until all contaminated water meets the cleanup goals specified in the attached Summary of Alternative Selection

#### SOIL (SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION)

- Installation of a network of air withdrawal (or vacuum) wells in the unsaturated zone

- Construction of a pump and manifold system of PVC pipes used for applying a vacuum on the air wells to remove the organic compounds from soil

#### Description of Significant Differences

The ROD, in the introductory section entitled "Statutory Determinations" states that because "the remedy will not result in hazardous substances remaining on-site above health-based levels, the five-year facility review will not apply..." However, EPA's National Contingency Plan and guidance requires a five-year review of the effectiveness of selected remedies whenever contaminants remain at the site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The selected remedies for this site are projected to take two years for the contaminated soil remediation (soil vapor extraction) and sixteen years for the groundwater remediation (pump and treat), as outlined above.

Until the remedy is fully implemented and deemed successful, the soil and ground water will be contaminated above health based risk levels. Because of this fact and the lengthy projection for the ground water remediation, a five-year review will be required. This requirement is consistent with Section 121(c) of CERCLA. The purpose of the five-year review is to confirm that Superfund remedies remain operational and functional and to evaluate if cleanup standards, Federal and State Requirements are still adequate and protective. EPA requires these reviews within five years of the initiation of the remedial actions.

*Patrick M. Tidwell*

*for* Greer Tidwell  
Regional Administrator

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